



STATE OF DELAWARE  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE COUNCIL  
STATISTICAL ANALYSIS CENTER  
410 FEDERAL STREET, SUITE # 6  
DOVER, DELAWARE 19901

Telephone: (302) 739-4626  
Fax: (302) 739-4630  
SLC: D380B  
Web: [sac.delaware.gov/](http://sac.delaware.gov/)

July 12, 2021

MEMORANDUM

To: John Stevenson, Director; DYRS  
Danielle Stevenson, Social Services Senior Administrator; DSCYF  
Kristine Bendler, Management Analyst; DSCYF  
From: Spencer Price, Director; Statistical Analysis Center  
Analyst: Brie Gannon, Research Specialist; Statistical Analysis Center  
Subject: Recidivism Request for 2019 Ferris and Cottages Release Cohort

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Per your request, the Center is providing recidivism information for youth having been released from Ferris School or the Cottages during 2019. As the basis for this analysis, DSCYF provided the Center with the 2019 Ferris and Cottages cohort (114 youth) to be analyzed. The Center extracted all arrest data for each cohort from the Delaware Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS). For this analysis the first arrest that occurred after the release (at-risk) date provided by DSCYF represents the initial recidivism event. The Center then extracted court disposition information from the Judicial Information Center (JIC) to provide outcomes as they relate to the initial recidivism event.

**Methodology:**

In measuring re-arrest recidivism, the Center uses only what it refers to as serious criminal offenses. In addition to probation or parole violations, selected offenses are identified in the Delaware Code as felonies or misdemeanors with incarceration as a possible (or mandatory) sanction.

If a juvenile is released from a Ferris or Cottages stay twice in the same calendar year, then the Center used the at-risk date from the first release of the cohort year to calculate time to recidivism. This knocks the second release for that particular juvenile out of the cohort study, preventing the juvenile from showing up multiple times within the same cohort year. Following the stated criteria, there were 114 juveniles in the 2019 Ferris and Cottages release cohort.

### Cohort Characteristics:

Background information on the demographics of the juvenile population present in this cohort analysis follows in Charts 1 and 2. Chart 1 shows the demographic breakdown of the 2019 Ferris and Cottages release cohort with respect to gender and race. Chart 2 depicts the age of the youth when he or she became at-risk following release from Ferris or the Cottages in calendar year 2019.

Chart 1. Cohort Demographics by Gender and Race

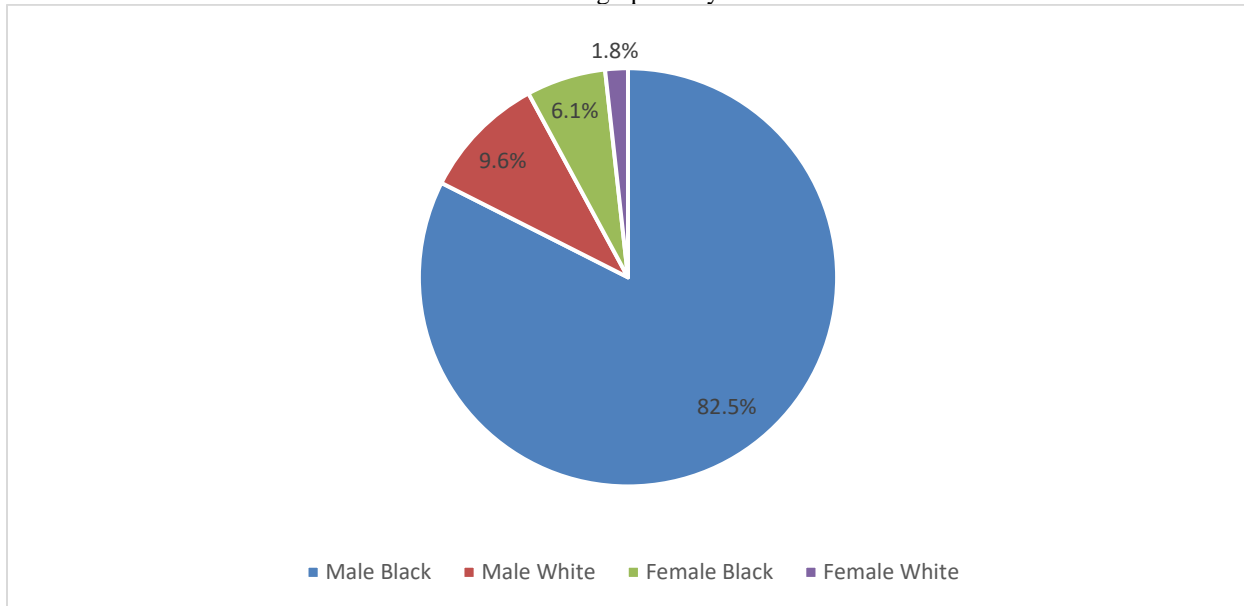
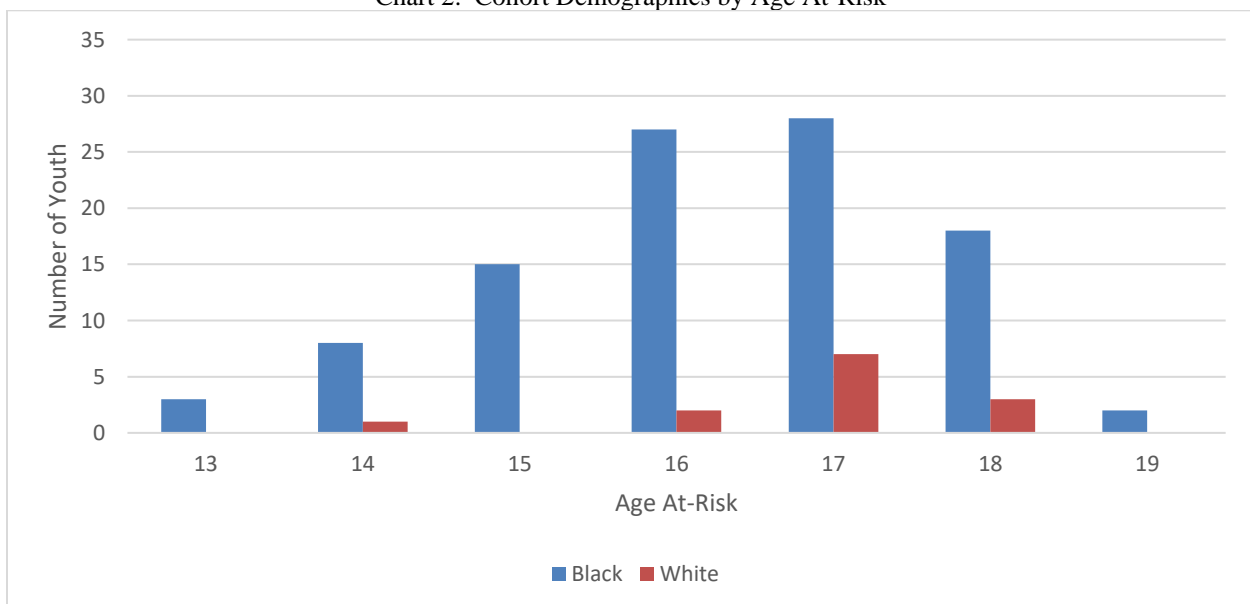


Chart 2. Cohort Demographics by Age At-Risk



### **Recidivism Findings:**

Chart 3 shows recidivism by re-arrest for the Ferris and Cottages 2019 cohort by recidivating crime type (felony, misdemeanor, or violation of probation) as well as the timing of their first recidivism event following their release date. Chart 4 reflects that about 68% of juveniles in the cohort recidivated within the first 6 months of being at-risk. Recidivism rates decrease after the first 6 months at-risk, as can be seen by the blue recidivism as a percentage of youths still at-risk line. However, the red cumulative recidivism rate for 18 months at-risk climbs to 84.2% for the 2019 cohort.

Chart 3. Recidivism by First Re-Arrest Type

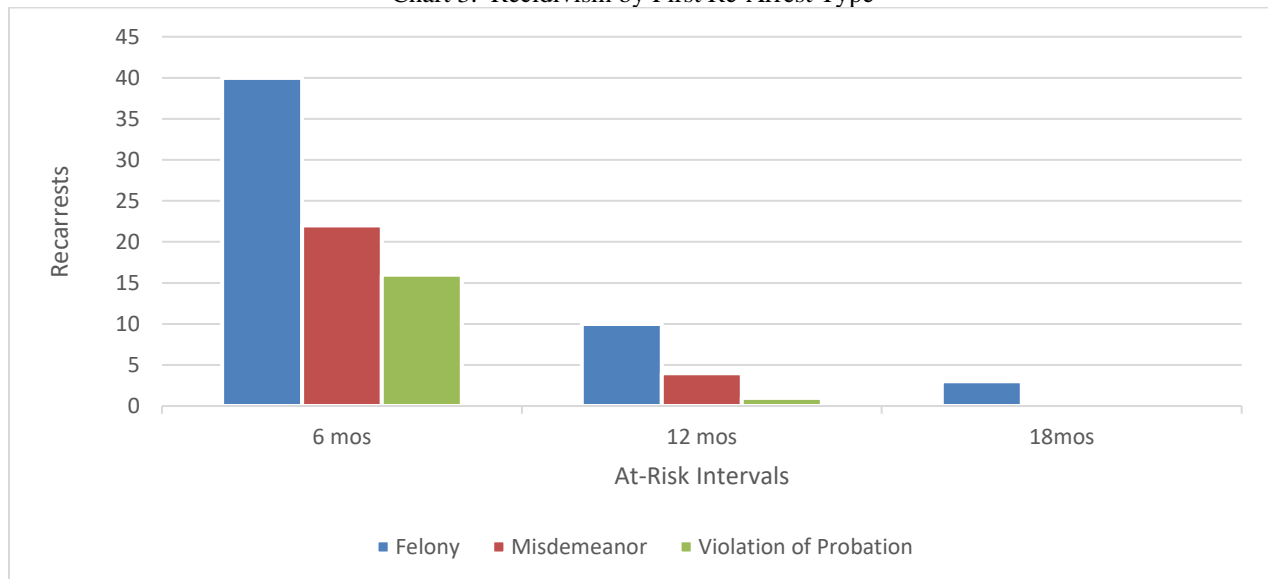


Chart4. Recidivism by At-Risk and Cumulative Measures

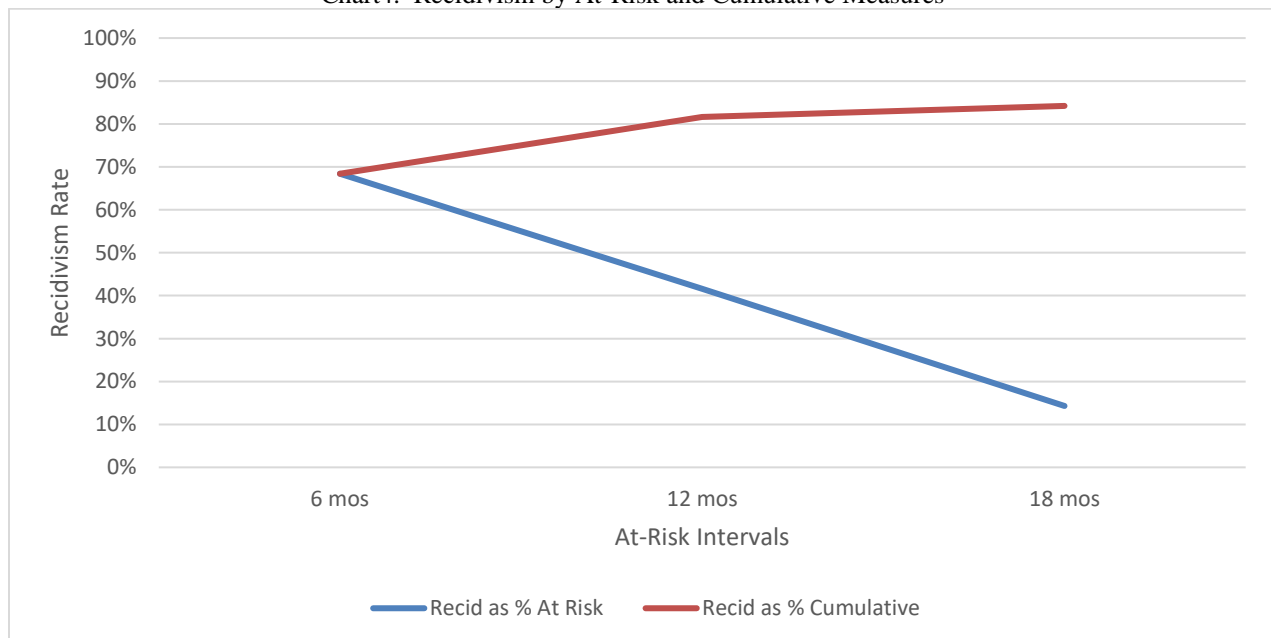
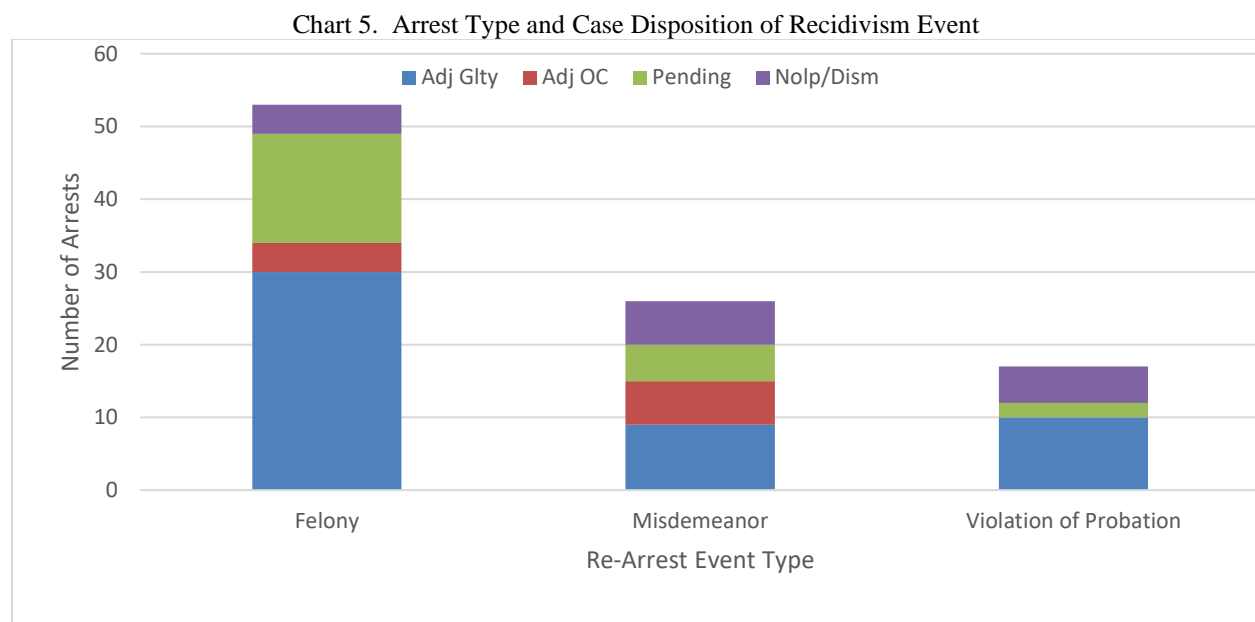


Chart 5 breaks out youths who recidivated (Chart 3 above) by re-arrest type and the disposition of that case. Disposition categories are grouped by the following column headings: Adjudicated Guilty (or JDEL), Adjudicated Guilty on other charges (in the same filing as they relate to the first re-arrest event following their release from Ferris or the Cottages), have charges Pending, or charges that were Nolle Prossed/Dismissed (Nolp/Dism).

In the 2019 cohort, 30 out of 53 (or 56.6%) of recidivism events with a felony charge resulted in the youth being adjudicated guilty (or JDEL) of the felony, while 15 (or 28.3%) of first re-arrest events including a felony charge are still pending and 7.5% were adjudicated guilty on charges from a different case presented within the same filing or court proceeding. For example, a juvenile is re-arrested and charged with a felony that is Nolp/Dism, but then adjudicated guilty of a shoplifting charge in a subsequent arrest occurring a few days later that was included in the same filing and court proceedings. There are a greater number of cases in pending status than in the previous year, this is likely a result of COVID restrictions during calendar year 2020 and 2021.



Of the 96 youths that recidivated within 18 months at-risk, Chart 6 shows 51% had charges within their re-arrest event that were adjudicated guilty (or JDEL), 22.9% are still pending, 15.6% were nolle prossed or dismissed, and 10.4% were adjudicated guilty of other charges within the same filing.

Chart 6. Re-Arrest Event Disposition of Lead Charge

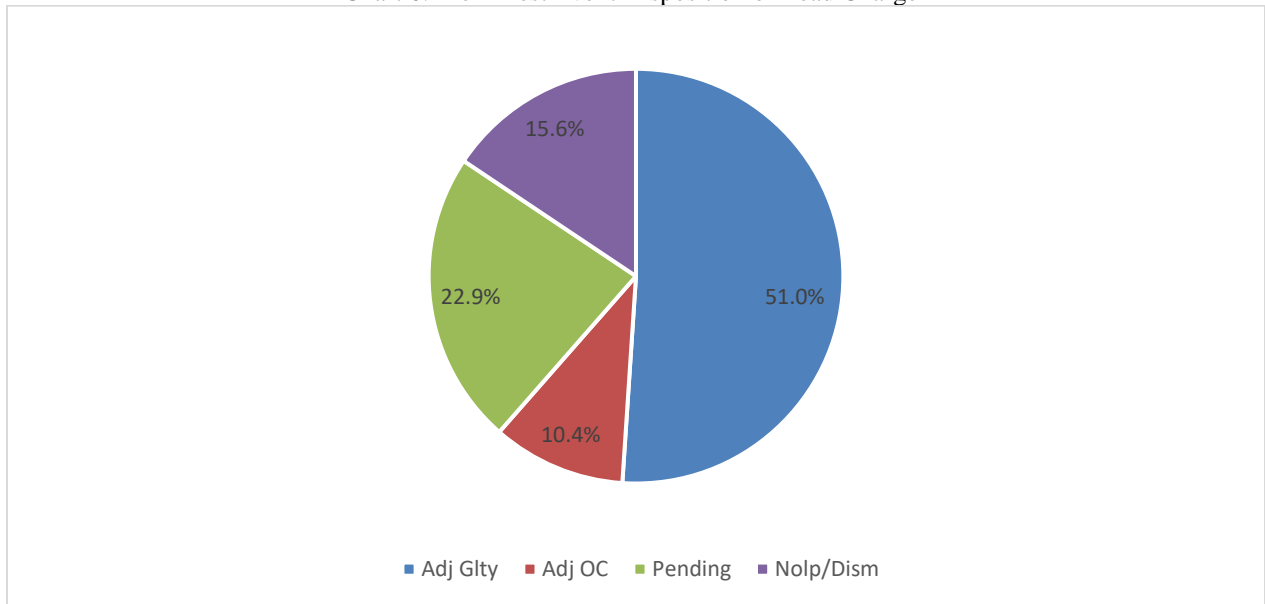


Chart 7 breaks the re-arrest event down into greater arrest charge detail. Charges within the first re-arrest post release from Ferris or the Cottages were classified into crimes against person, weapon, drug, property, public or violation of probation. This was done hierarchically in that order. For example, a juvenile having an arrest for Robbery 1<sup>st</sup> (person) with a possession of firearm charge (weapon) and a drug charge, would be in the person column, whereas a juvenile with re-arrest charges for burglary (property) and criminal mischief (public) would be recorded in the property column.

Chart 7. Re-Arrest Case by Lead Charge Detail

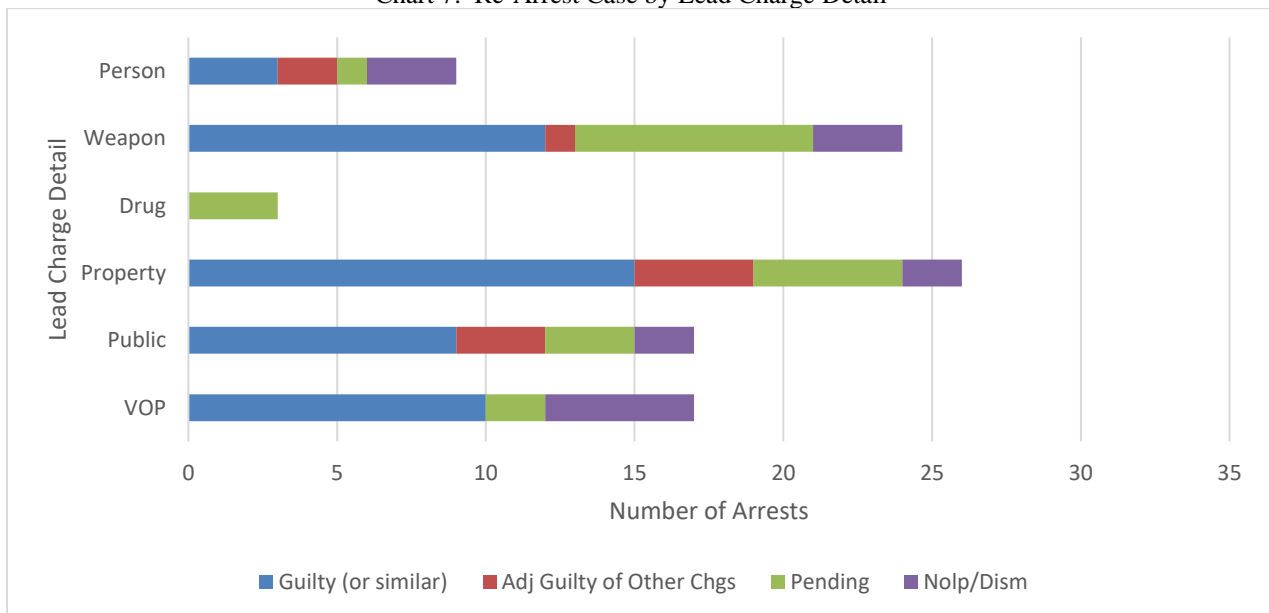


Chart 8 shows cumulative recidivism by race for 6 months, 12 months and 18 months for the 2019 Ferris and Cottages release cohort. The recidivism rate was 86.1% for black juveniles and 69.2% for white juveniles. The majority of youth recidivists were re-arrested within 6 months of being at-risk.

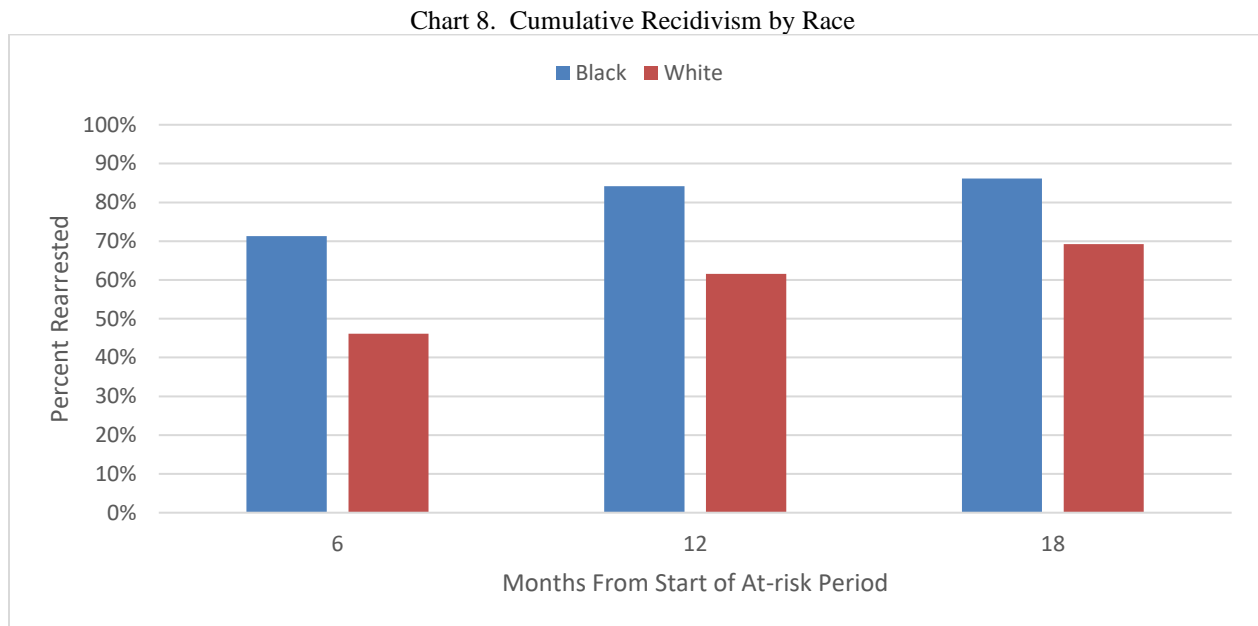


Chart 9 shows recidivism rates by race and crime type. It is important to point out that the overall demographic of cohort 2019 consists of 88.6% black youth.

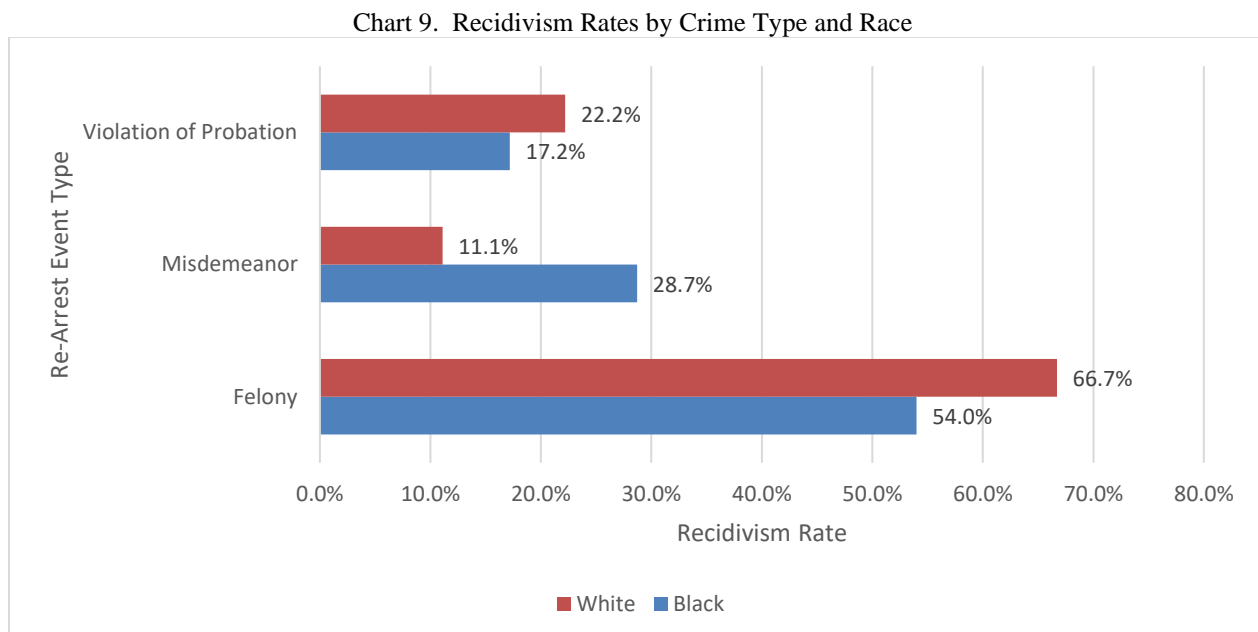


Chart 10 captures readmission rates for youths released from Ferris or the Cottages in 2019 by race. The readmission rate as a percentage of juveniles at-risk is greatest within the first 6 months at-risk.

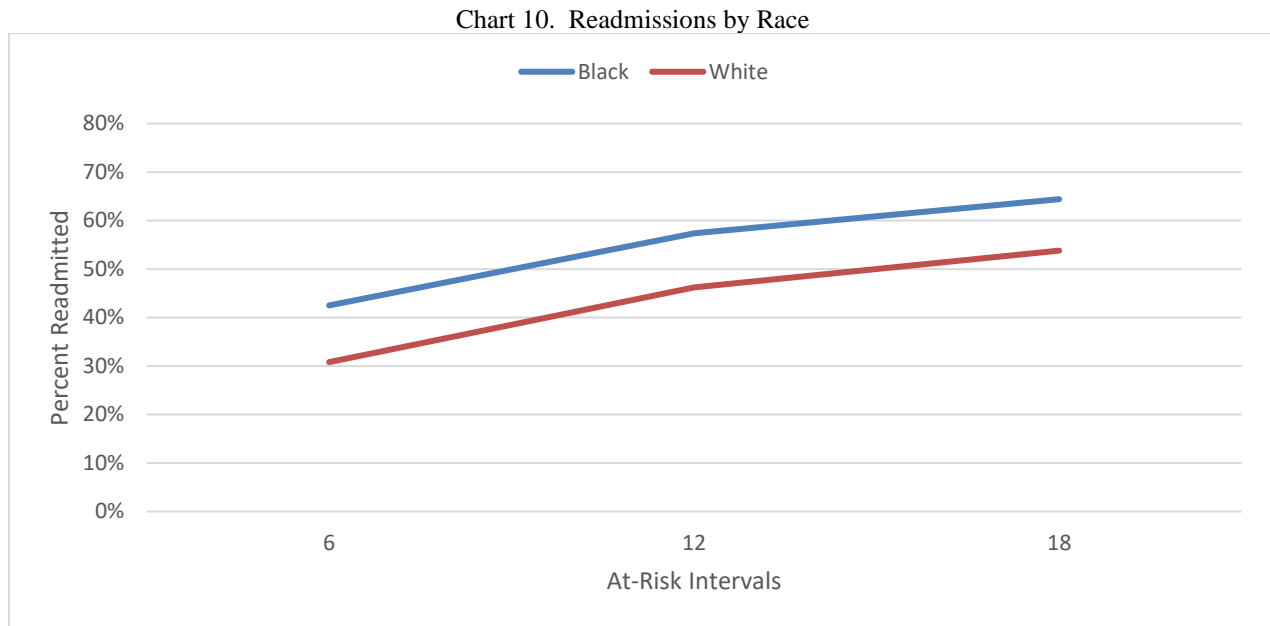


Chart 11 reflects whether the juvenile's readmission was a detention or a sentenced admission.

